



Tom Lantos

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER**

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FOR INFORMATION CALL:
Lynne Weil (202) 225-6735

Lantos Decries Abuse of Visas for Specialized Workers

Washington, DC – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA), the ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee, today deplored corporate abuse of visas that permit people from abroad to train for specialized work in the United States, then return to their countries and effectively take U.S. jobs with them.

“Our economy is no longer just hemorrhaging manufacturing jobs,” Lantos said. “Alarming, corporations are also finding creative ways to move high technology and service jobs overseas. Despite these sobering facts, the Administration continues to press for the same type of economic policies and trade agreements that facilitated the export of millions of good American jobs overseas.”

Lantos said that in order to help keep corporations from “putting profits above people and above our national interest,” he is a co-sponsor of H.R. 2702., bipartisan legislation that would put an end to the abuse by employers of non-immigrant work permits known as L-visas. The L-visa program was created in the 1970s to facilitate the temporary transfer of top managers from overseas companies to set up production lines in the United States.

“Ironically, the L-visa guest workers don’t come to the United States to apply knowledge at all, but rather to get it,” Lantos noted. “In a tawdry affair, U.S. corporations force doomed American workers to train the L-visa guests, then they fire the American workers and ship their jobs back overseas with the returning guest workers. I find this process an outrage.”

Lantos listened to testimony from U.S. workers who lost their jobs to L-visa holders, and he took note of a sad case in California last year in which a Pleasant Hill man, apparently in despair over the outsourcing of his job, took his own life.

Congressman Lantos’ complete opening remarks from the hearing are available upon request.

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